



**Start of Gerda L. Schulman
Collection**

AR 11669

Sys #: 000352278

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

Center for Jewish History

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AR 11669

4/2

Gerda L. Schulman Collection

1938-1993

Archives

AHC 1218

Copies only, unless otherwise indicated

- 1) AHC questionnaires I & II
- 2) Gerda Lang's Doctorate of Law, University of Vienna, 01/29/1938
- 3) Master of Science Degree for Gerda Lang Schulman, Columbia University New York, 02/25/1942
- 4) Certificate of Membership in The New York State Society of Clinical Social Work Psychotherapists, Inc., 05/06/1992
- 5) Certificate for Board Certified Diplomate in Clinical Social Work; issued by the American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work, 09/13/1993
- 6) Certificate about the Election as Clinical Member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Counselors, undated
- 7) Letter "To [Unknown]" by Thomas Mann. The addressee was in fact Gerda Schulman who was at the time living in Amsterdam; dated New York 5/21/1938, from the book "Thomas Mann. Letters"
- 8) "The Family Interview as an integrative Device in Group Therapy with Families", reprint of an article by Elsa Leichter and Gerda L. Schulman; The International Journal of Group Psychotherapy, 7/1963 (original)
- 9) "The Prevention of Family Break-up", article by Gerda L. Schulman and Elsa Leichter, reprinted from Social Casework, 3/1968 (original)
- 10) Myths that intrude on the adaptation of the stepfamily", article by Gerda L. Schulman; Social Casework, 3/1972 (9 pages)
- 11) "Treatment of intergenerational pathology", article by Gerda L. Schulman, reprinted from Social Casework, 10/1973 (original)
- 12) "Multi-Family Group Therapy: A Multidimensional Approach", reprint of an article by Elsa Leichter and Gerda L. Schulman; Family Process, 3/1974 (original)
- 13) "The Single-Parent Family", article by Gerda L. Schulman, reprinted from "Journal Communal Service", summer 1975 (8 pages)
- 14) "Divorce, Single Parenthood and Stepfamilies", article by Gerda L. Schulman, Journal of Family Therapy, summer 1981 (26 pages)
- 15) Book Review on Gerda L. Schulman's book "Family Therapy: Teaching, Learning, Doing", 12/1982
- 16) Essay on Feminist Family Therapy (1990), by Gerda L. Schulman
- 17) "Siblings revisited: Old Conflicts and New Opportunities in Later Life", article by Gerda L. Schulman, Journal of Marital and Family Therapy, October 1999 (original)
- 18) Overview of parts of Gerda Schulman's estate at the Deutsche Bibliothek, Frankfurt, Germany (2 pages)

THE AUSTRIAN HERITAGE COLLECTION AT THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

AUSTRIAN-JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN THE USA

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE: 129 E 73 STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10021, TEL (212) 744 8400

Name:

GERDA

h.

SCHULMAN

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

Address:

y

Phone:

— Last Occupation: Social Worker - Therapist

Date of Birth:

9 16 1915
Month Day Year

Place of Birth:

Vienne Austrie

City

Country

Address

before 1938:

Hitzing (13th) Vienne Austrie
Street (District in Vienna) City Country

Prewar Name:

Gerda LANG

Maiden Name:

GERDA LANG

1. Education/Occupation(s) (if possible, indicate institutions and year when entered/left)

DOCTORAT of LAW - Vienne University 1938
Social Worker - Therapist - N.Y.C. Columbia University, NYC
Advanced Degree - University of Penn. 1951

2. Were you affiliated with any kind of organization? (Youth, Zionist, Political or any other organizations)
If so, did you have any specific function?

No

3. Were you arrested and/or interned? (please indicate where and when)

No

4. What was your route of emigration? (please indicate places and dates of stay)

The Netherlands, then USA 1939
1938 (Amsterdam)

5. May we contact you again with a more detailed follow-up questionnaire?

Yes / No

6. Do you have any documents that would be appropriate for the archives of the Leo Baeck Institute? (personal documents, photographs, letters, all kinds of manuscripts, diaries, memoirs, etc.)

Yes / No

Most of my documents are and professional material are

If necessary please use additional sheets. Thank you!

in the "Deutsches Exil Archiv 1933-1945"
in the Deutschen Bibliothek in Frankfurt



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We kindly ask you to answer the following questions in as much detail as possible, either in English or in German. If you need more space, please feel free to use additional sheets. If you don't know the answers to certain questions or don't want to answer for any reason, just go on to the next question.

NAME: Gerda L. Schulman

DATE: 9/22/99

1. BEFORE MARCH 1938

1.1 Please describe your parental home.

(Did you live in an apartment or in a house? How many people lived with you? Did you have servants? What language(s) were spoken in the household?)

I lived in a villa (3 family house) my then married older sister lived on the third floor with her husband and twin girls. I lived with my parents. There were two fulltime maids. WE spoke German.

1.2 Please tell us about your neighborhood (District in Vienna or area).

(What ethnic groups lived there? Religious life? Relationships between Jews and non-Jews? Relationships with neighbors?)

We lived in the 13 district-Hietzing. IT was an upper middle class neighborhood-can not tell what the ethnic distribution was, but there was a temple in the area-hence I assume that there were a good number of Jews in similar circumstances as we were. I assume however that the majority were Christians. The relationship with neighbours was not intimate-but cordial AND I do not recall any reference to antisemitism in the pre Hitler area. It turned out however that the superintendent of villa was a Nazi and the fact that we didn't trust our staff when we escaped reflects some assumption that employees could not be trusted. Antisemitism however was existing in other areas, especially the generally shared bias against the Leopoldstadt-second district where the majority of emigrant Jews had settled. Later in the years before the Anschluss there was anti-Semitic rampage at the Vienna university etc.

1.3 What religious tradition existed in your family?

(Did you keep kosher, go to synagogue, observe holidays, etc.?)

My family were assimilated Jews. We kept the "big" holidays like Roschashonah, Yom Kippur, Passover. We belonged to the synagogue in the area. Non Kosher. I gather that when my mother got married to my father who came from a religious hungarian background that there was a period when friday night candles were lit; I suspect that this short tradition ended when my father became a soldier in the first world war. I do not recall that the family adhered to the custom when I was born 1915)

1.4 Please, tell us about your friends and acquaintances.

(Were they mostly Jewish or non-Jewish? Did you have any close non-Jewish friends?)

Most of my and my parents friends were jewish-however when I attended Vienna University I had a few non jewish friends and some from High School(Gymnasium -I attended a girls Real gymnasium in the city(Innere Stadt)-the dominant group of children were jewish or non jews from political progressive background-Schwarzwald Schule)

1.5 Were you affiliated with any political, social or religious organization?

(Youth Organizations, Zionist Organizations, Political Parties, other organizations)

If so, did you have any specific function?

No.

I was however politically very aware.

1.6 Did you or your family encounter any anti-Semitism before March 1938?
(If so, please give details.)

As stated before, we didn't directly encounter antisemitism in Vienna but there was an unspoken message that certain things were not possible for Jews though much was covered up thru first socialism and then after Dollfuss took over 1934 and later Schuschnigg, my father worked together with the christian socialists because they were against the Nazis and Hitler-he was on an endangered list when the Nazis took over.

My fathers youngest brother who was raised in Germany was one of the early prisoners in a concentration camp in Germany because of his leftist politics--the original prisoners were mostly persecuted because of their political beliefs and the racist anti Jewish activity became more and more pronounced. This uncle who was about 33

was badly beaten and tortured, but released (1934) and his non Jewish wife and the fact that he was born in Hungary--hence not a German citizen--his life was saved. AS already stated while I attended the law school of Vienna university there were ugly demonstrations against the Jews and it was known who of the professors were antisemites, yet I personally was not attacked--there were very few girls in law school. However the Austrian especially the Viennese Jews, were aware what had occurred in Germany believed that Austria would be saved by the Allies and Hitler would not succeed.

1.7 What was your (or your parents') reaction to Hitler's rise to power in Germany in 1933 and to Nazi activity in Austria in the early thirties?
Did you or your parents feel threatened by these events?

We were horrified, helped refugees but as indicated failed to grasp the danger for Austria, was a subliminal awareness--for instance my cousin, the only male in the immediate family--then

13 was sent to boarding school in England and 1936 my father went to the US and SA on a business trip and founded a minifirm in Buenos Aires which eventually became the base for our emigration.

I as a young student, was deeply convinced that I could not happen "here", but once the Anschluss occurred - we acted immediately and dropped all our illusions--in some way we knew that once the Nazis would take over our life as we had known it would not be possible. We were however not aware of the underground activities and the latent antisemitism even among the social democrats.

recumbent for the fact that his life was saved.

Violent

2.3 Do you have any recollections of November 9th, 1938, the so-called "Reichs-Kristallnacht"? (If so, please give details.)

NO more than any person who was not present, but many of my friends later gave horrific details of this and other experiences.

2.4 Were you or any members of your family arrested? Sent to a camp? (If so, please give details.)

See my uncle in Germany and my aunt who was in prison. Several of my friends were in a CC.

2.5 Can you recall the process of obtaining papers necessary for emigration? (Did you try to obtain visas for other countries as well? Were you supported by any relief organization, by relatives or friends?)

AS indicated we were fortunate and obtained visas in the early weeks of our emigration due to my father's residence in BA and thru my Dutch citizenship. WE later went to Canada and emigrated legally - the Dutch had no quota then. WE did help a lot of others to get into the US

2.6 What happened to your (or your family's) apartments, houses, businesses and other property?

AS indicated we left and they were taken over by gentiles. After the war the villa was returned but my father's was so disfigured that he sold it for a nominal amount with the condition that a cousin of his who survived could stay in part of the apartment.

Since I married in Holland a few months after the Anschluss some personal property was shipped to me-I had become a dutch citizen-that was before the war-but since we, my husband and I went on a visitor visa to the US May 1939 because of the insistence of my mother who foresaw the war, all this got lost when the Netherlands were taken over.

My in laws eventually perished as dutch jews on one of the transports.

2.7 When did you leave Austria? (Please indicate exact date, if possible)

One week after the Anschluss March 18-20 1938

2.8 If you did not emigrate directly to the U.S, where did you go first?

(How long did you stay there? Can you give a brief description of your experiences? Why did you leave?)

The Netherlands- 11 months-arrived in the US May 2 1939!
MY family was aware of the danger for the whole of Europe and my husband and I gladly left the continent. During my stay in Holland our home became a refuge for many of my friends who escaped-my in-laws- still in denial thought it odd that I was so identified with refugees and they were against our leaving Holland.

3. THE UNITED STATES

3.1 When did you arrive in the U.S.? (Please indicate exact date, if possible)

May 2 1939

3.2 Did members of your family emigrate to countries other than the U.S.? (If so, where? Where do they live today? Are you still in contact with them?)

after the war
yes, Argentina. MY parents later left Argentina and came to the US and so did my sister - I still have family in Buenos Aires.

3.3 Did you serve in the U.S. Armed Forces or in any other allied army? (If so, when did you join? What division? What was your area of operation? When were you discharged?)

No

3.4 Please list places and dates of residence in the U.S.
(City, State; in bigger cities, neighborhood)

I arrived in NYC-loved it and stayed here all my life.
I first lived in furnished rooms and when we got settled in Forest
Hills, Jackson heights and White Plains. I am living since 1961
in Riverdale (Bronx)

3.5 Please describe your occupational situation from your arrival in the U.S. to the present.

I received my law doctorate in Vienna Jan 31 1938-when I
came to the US I decided to take UP Social Work and was
accepted at Columbia University SSW 1940. My husband worked in the
numismatic field- I received various grants and scholarships
also for my advanced studies.

3.6 Did you belong to any emigrant/immigrant-related organization or cultural association? (e.g. Austrian American Federation, Austrian Forum, etc.? If so, since when? Do you still belong to any of them?)

NO . I do receive material from the Austtrian Kultur bund.

3.7 Do you still speak German? If so, with whom and when? How often?

Yes. Occasionally with my sister. or with People who come from Austria or Germany. I prefer ~~speaking~~ foreign english, though I still have an accent.

3.8 Would you call yourself religious? To what degree? What is your affiliation? Has it changed?

(Do you keep kosher, go to synagogue, observe the holidays,...?)

I call myself a cultural Jew with a strong Jewish identity, but no official religious affiliation.

3.9 Are your friends and acquaintances mostly German-speaking or non-German-speaking? Mainly Jewish or not?

Most of my friends are English speaking or prefer to speak English. Many, but not all, are Jewish.

3.10 Of what country (countries) are you a citizen? When was each citizenship granted?

US I believe 1944-45.

3.11 Have you ever visited Austria since the war? If so, how often?

(What did you do there? Can you recall some of your impressions during these visits? Have you ever thought of going back permanently?)

I was three times in Vienna. The first time when my daughter was 18 to show her where I grew up, then a second time when former colleagues invited me for a reunion and the third time when I showed Vienna to another young relative of mine. I have been many times in the Austrian mountains during my summer vacation—I never thought of going back permanently, but I was and am very conscious of the behavior of Austrians which by that way has changed. Now that we are in the third generation after the war. Initially there was a lot of denial—people asked me when I visited re my flawless German and I gave always the same answer—I left because of Hitler. In the first years people had two distinct responses—they either became defensive and insisted they didn't know from anything or they told occasionally stories of their or their parents' anti-Nazi activities. In later years the grandchildren's generation spoke about the silence which existed during these years and how some of them had to fight to get to the truth—MY original reaction when I returned to Vienna was almost paranoid—I challenged people etc—this has changed since it is easier to have an honest discussion with the young generation, particularly in my field.

4. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS

4.1 Have you ever been interviewed by any other organization?

(Please indicate when and by which organization?) *claimed to be*
many in Germany took responsibility at least in a fashion whereas Austrians tended to behave as if they were innocent victims mainly of the Russians and unwilling participants of the Anschluss. I still remember how Vienna was jubilant and welcoming of Hitler

4. Yes, I am in the German speaking archiv of German speaking exiles in Frankfurt a.M. Visited there last summer and they have all my documents. I was interviewed and they have as I mentioned on the phone all my professional and many other documents.

4.2 Have you ever been mentioned in any historical works?

(Holocaust-related literature, Documentary films, Exhibitions etc.)

NO none but above.

5. FAMILY MEMBERS

5.1 Spouse (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth (if deceased, place/date of death), Occupation(s))

Hans F.M.Schulman. He was a numismatist
died 1995 Born in Amsterdam May 13 1913

My maiden mae was Gerda Lang Born Sept 16 1915 in Vienna.

5.2 Mother (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth (if deceased, place/date of death), Occupation(s))

Helen Lang, Nee Steiner March 5 1883 in Vienna Died Nov 22
in Los Angeles 1970 Housewife.

5.3 Father (Name, Place/date of birth (if deceased, place/date of death, Occupation(s))

Eugene Lang Born in Bodony HUNGARY March 10 1883 died in Los
Angeles Jan 1959
Businessman

5.4 Siblings (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth (if deceased, place/date of death), Occupation(s))

Lily Lang now De Britto Born in Vienna Dec 27 1911-alive
Housewife, lives in L.A

5.5 Children (Name, Maiden Name, Address (City, State, Country), Place/date of birth (if deceased, place/date of death), Occupation(s))

Monica Schulman, married Gollub Born in NYC JULY 5 1943
Commissioner of Workmans Comp-appointed by the Governor/
Died Dec 29 1985. (suicide)

5.6 Grandparents (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth (if deceased, place/date of death), Occupation(s))

Mother's parents: JOseph Steiner born in Roumania
emigrated to Vienne, married, wife died when my mother was
7 years old, he remarried - Step-mother died 1915 in
Vienna

I did not know any of my maternal grandparents.

Fat grandparents

Samuel Lang born? in HUNGARY? MY father was the oldest son
married Fannis Ruszeniak who died when my father was about
17? also in Hungary-

I knew him when he visited. He was
an orthodox Jew-my father had many younger siblings-some
emigrated to the US when they were young and some of my
cousins are Christian today.

The Austrian Heritage Collection is always looking for people to interview.

One of my first cousins is named after my father Eugene
*If you know any Austrian-Jewish immigrants in the US who might be interested in
participating in this project, please either ask them to contact us or write their addresses below.*

and is known for his philanthropy "I have a dream", founder
of Eugene Coolidge New University etc.

Thank you very much for participating in this project.



NOS RECTOR UNIVERSITATIS LITTERARUM VINDOBONENSIS

ERNESTUS SPATH, philosophiae doctor, professor chemiae publicus ordinarius; HENRICUS MITTEL, iuris doctor, professor iuris ac rerum politicarum publicus ordinarius, h. t. iuris consultorum ordinis decanus; ERNESTUS SCHONBAUER, iuris et philosophiae doctor, professor iuris ac rerum politicarum publicus ordinarius, promotor rite constitutus, in dominam clarissimam

GERDAM LANG

Vindobonensem, postquam examinibus legitimis laudabilem in universo iure doctrinam probavit, doctoris iuris nomen et honores iura et privilegia contulimus in eiusque rei fidem hasce litteras universitatis sigillo sanciendo curavimus.

Vindobonae, die XXIX. mensis Januarii MCDXXXVIII.

E. Lang
H. Mittel

E. Schonbauer

THE TRUSTEES OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

TO ALL PERSONS TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME GREETING
BE IT KNOWN THAT

~~GERDA LANG SCHUELMAN~~

HAVING COMPLETED A COURSE OF STUDIES IN

SOCIAL WORK

AND SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF SCIENCE

HAS ACCORDINGLY BEEN ADMITTED TO THAT DEGREE WITH ALL THE
RIGHTS PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES THEREUNTO APPERTAINING

IN WITNESS WHEREOF WE HAVE CAUSED THIS DIPLOMA TO BE
SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY AND BY THE DIRECTOR
OF THE NEW YORK SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AND OUR CORPORATE SEAL
TO BE HERETO AFFIXED IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH
DAY OF FEBRUARY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND FORTY TWO



Walter D. Brewster
DIRECTOR

**The
New York State Society
of
Clinical Social Work Psychotherapists, Inc.**

Certifies that

Gerda L. Schulman

has met the requirements for membership and has been accepted into this Society.

Fellow

Membership



Issued by the Officers and Executive Committee on

the 6th ... day of May, 1992.

David B. Phillips
President, New York State Society of
Clinical Social Work Psychotherapists, Inc.

*American Board of Examiners
in
Clinical Social Work*

Having met the professional education and practice requirements set forth by this Board,

Dr. Gerda L. Schulman

is hereby awarded the honor of designation as

*Board Certified Diplomate in Clinical
Social Work*



Certificate Number 015431

In Witness Whereof this
13th *September* 19*93*
Day *of* *the*
Clare M. Foster
President, American Board of Examiners
in Clinical Social Work, Inc.



FOUNDED 1942

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELORS

CERTIFIES THAT

Berda L. Sekulman, Ph.D.

HAS BEEN DULY ELECTED
CLINICAL MEMBER

Frank E. Silverstein

PRESIDENT

Jordan L. Tauber

SECRETARY

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MARRIAGE COUNSELORS, INC.



**End of Gerda L. Schulman
Collection**

